

REMARKS

Claims 1-54 were pending and presented for examination and in this application. In an Office action dated September 2, 2005, claims 30-34 were allowed, claims 21, 36-39, 48 and 52-54 were objected to, and claims 1-20, 22-29, 35, 40-47 and 49-51 were rejected. Applicant thanks Examiner for examination of the claims pending in this application and addresses Examiner's comments below.

Applicant is canceling claims 4, 21, 25, 36 and 52 and adding new claims 55-58 with this Amendment and Response. Applicant is amending claims 1, 12-16, 22, 35, 37-39, 41-44, 50, 53, and 54 in this Amendment and Response. These changes are believed not to introduce new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

In view of the Amendments herein and the Remarks that follow, Applicant respectfully requests that Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections, and withdraw them. In addition, Applicants believe the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Response to Rejection Under 35 USC § 112, P2

In the 2nd paragraph of the Office action, Examiner rejects claims 4 and 25 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has cancelled these claims and thereby obviated the basis for the rejection.

In the 3rd paragraph of the Office action, Examiner objected to claims 12-29 and 35-49 for formalities. Applicant has incorporated Examiner's suggestion to appropriately clarify the relevant claims to now recite "said each flow data structure." Applicant submits that the

amendments now obviate the objection and request withdrawal of the objection. As for the term “router,” Applicant’s believe that it has been correctly applied in the context of the claims and requests reconsideration of this objection.

Response to Rejection Under 35 USC 102(b) in View of Ochiai and

35 USC 103(a) in View of Ochiai and Rangachar

In the 5th paragraph of the Office action, Examiner rejects claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 9 under 35 USC § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,067,127 to Ochiai et al. (“Ochiai”). Further, in the 6th paragraph of the Office action, Examiner rejects claims 7-8, 10-20, 22-24, 26-29, 35, 40-47, and 49-51 under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable in view of Ochiai and U.S. Patent No. 6,249,519 to Rangachar et al. (“Rangachar”). Thereafter, in the 8th and 9th paragraph, Examiner notes that claims 4, 21, 25, 36-39, 48, and 52-54 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 12, 22, 35, and 50 to incorporate the subject matter of the appropriate objected to dependencies. Thus, Applicant submits that such amendment obviates the basis for the rejections. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of these claims.

Conclusion

Applicant has added new claims 55-58 for which Applicant requests consideration and examination. Applicant respectfully submits that these are supported by the specification and are commensurate within the scope of protection to which Applicant believes they are entitled.

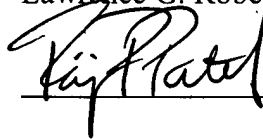
In sum, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-3, 5-20, 22-24, 26-35, 37-51, and 53-58, as presented herein, are patentably distinguishable over the cited references (including references cited, but not applied). Therefore, Applicant requests reconsideration of the basis for the rejections to these claims and request allowance of them.

In addition, Applicant respectfully invites Examiner to contact Applicant's representative at the number provided below if Examiner believes it will help expedite furtherance of this application.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lawrence G. Roberts

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By: _____



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